

Revelation 9:1-21
Fifth and Sixth Trumpet, First Woe

- 1) The fifth angel blows his trumpet—9:1-12 [the first Woe expressed]
 - a) God-given authority to act—9:1-2 (cf. Luke 8:31; similar to an abyss near Laodicea)
 - i) The third blackout (cf. 6:12 [6th seal]; 8:12 [4th trumpet])
 - b) God-limited authority to demonic warriors to act—9:3-5 (cf. 1:18)
 - i) Limited as to: objects (normal food for locusts), rebellious people (non-sealed), extent (torment but not kill), and duration (5 months; normal life cycle of locusts)
 - ii) Those who had been sealed (cf. 7:3-8)
 - c) The human response to such activity—9:6
 - i) *people will seek death and not ever find it;*
 - ii) *they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.*
 - d) The physical appearance of the demonic warriors—9:7-10 (cf. Joel 1-2) [note the several uses of “like” or “as”]
 - i) Their unusual appearance—9:7-8
 - ii) Their protection, sound, and potential danger—9:9-10
 - e) The organization of the demonic warriors—9:11
 - i) Their leader is named: *Abaddon* (destruction) *Apollyon* (destroyer)
 - (1) Probably not Satan, but still a high-ranking demon
 - ii) Note John’s habit of language use (cf. John 1:38, 42; 4:25; 9:7; 19:13, 17)
 - f) First woe concluded—9:12 ¹² *The first woe has passed. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.*
- 2) The sixth angel blows his trumpet—9:13-21
 - a) God-prepared demonic destruction—9:13-19
 - i) Their moment—9:15a *hour and day and month and year*
 - ii) Their responsibility—9:15b *to kill a third of the people* (cf. 9:5-6)
 - (1) Reducing earth’s population to nearly ½ of its original total (cf. 6:8)
 - iii) Their number [*arithmos* # 706]—9:16 *myriads of myriads*
 - Critical text reads *dismurias* (double-myriad) instead of *urias* (myriad)
 - iv) Their appearance—9:17
 - (1) The riders—*had breastplates of fiery-red, hyacinth-blue, and sulfur-yellow*
 - (2) The horses—*heads like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur.*
 - v) Their effectiveness—9:18-19
 - b) Incurable hearts—9:20-21 ... *did not repent of [ek]* ... (cf. Galatians 5:19-21)
 - i) Religious perversion—*the works of their hands*,
 - (1) They were *worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, that are not able to see or hear walk about.* (cf. Psalm 115:4-8)
 - ii) Social perversion—*murders*
 - iii) Religious perversion—*sorceries* [*pharmakeia* # 5331]—drugs, potions, charms, poisons, etc.
 - iv) Physical perversion—*sexual immorality*
 - v) Social perversion—*stealing*